

## Affidavit for parties and notary

State of Arkansas, County of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_;  
BE IT KNOWN THAT on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, before me the undersigned notary, personally came and appeared: \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

who after being duly sworn by me, a Notary, deposed and stated that: Affiants acknowledge that they have received premarital (or marriage) counseling from a priest, minister, rabbi, clerk of the Religious Society of Friends, any clergyman of any religious sect, or a professional marriage counselor, which marriage counseling included:

A discussion of the seriousness of Covenant Marriage; Communication of the fact that a Covenant Marriage is a commitment for life;

The obligation of a Covenant Marriage to take reasonable efforts to preserve the marriage if marital difficulties arise; and

That the affiants both read this pamphlet, developed and promulgated by the Administrative Office of the Courts, which provides a full explanation of a Covenant Marriage, including the obligation to seek marital counseling in times of marital difficulties and the exclusive grounds for legally terminating a Covenant Marriage by divorce or divorce after a judgment of separation from bed or board.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of prospective spouse)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of prospective spouse)

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME  
THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
NOTARY PUBLIC

### ATTESTATION for Counselor

The undersigned attests that the affiants did receive counseling from me as to the nature and purpose of marriage, which included a discussion of the seriousness of Covenant Marriage, communication of the fact that a Covenant Marriage is for life, and the obligation of a Covenant Marriage to take reasonable efforts to preserve the marriage if marital difficulties arise.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Counselor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title/professional credential

\_\_\_\_\_  
The two documents that comprise the declaration of intent—the recitation and the affidavit with attestation—must be filed with the official who issues the marriage license with the couple's application for a marriage license.

## Covenant Marriage Act 2001

Act 1486 of 2001 created an option for couples in Arkansas to choose a Covenant Marriage.

The couple entering into a Covenant Marriage agrees to be bound by two limitations on obtaining a divorce or separation which do not apply to other couples married in Arkansas:

The couple agrees to seek marital counseling if problems develop during the marriage; and

The couple can seek a divorce or legal separation only for limited reasons, as set out in the Act and explained in this pamphlet, which outlines the consequences of entering into a Covenant Marriage under Arkansas law.

Additionally, couples bound by a Covenant Marriage, unless judicially separated, may only sue each other for certain causes of action.

**Couples who are already married** may execute a declaration of intent to designate their marriage a Covenant Marriage. They must sign a recitation and an affidavit such as the one included in this pamphlet, after receiving counseling, to which the counselor must attest. This intent to designate their marriage a Covenant Marriage must be filed with the official who issues marriage licenses in the county in which the couple is domiciled.